


# DISJECTA BIENNIAL FORGES REGIONAL IDENTITY

Created on Thursday, 07 July 2016 01:01 | Written by [Jennifer Anderson](#) | 

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Event spreads across city, state with more artists, venues



COURTESY: DISJECTA - In selecting works for Portland2016 Biennial, curator Michelle Grabner (left, with painter Ellen McFadden) used 'regionalism,' or how artist' work reflects their geography or culture.

Each summer for the past 15 years, Portland art lovers have been treated to an impressive collection of some of the city's most engaging, innovative contemporary art exhibits.

On July 9, Disjecta Contemporary Art Center will launch the Portland2016 Biennial again, but in a brand-new format — read: more art, more artists, more cool spaces not just citywide, but statewide — to mark the event's anniversary.

“Portland2016 is a special moment for the art community,” says Bryan Suereth, Disjecta’s founder and executive director.

Specifically, this summer’s biennial will feature 34 artists, showcasing their works in 13 communities around Oregon, July 9-Sept. 18 (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**)

It was all curated by Michelle Grabner, a professor and chair of painting and drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, who made personal visits to 107 artists’ studios throughout Oregon to select the best mix of exhibits.

“A curator of Michelle Grabner’s caliber means this biennial will attract national and international audiences to Oregon artists, attention that they well deserve,” Suereth says.

In selecting the works for this year’s show, Grabner used her interest in “regionalism,” which means looking at how artists’ work reflects their geography or culture.



COURTESY: ERIN MALLEA/DISJECTA - The crowds were big two years ago for the Portland Biennial at Disjecta Contemporary Art Center. This year, Disjecta expanded the Biennial to across the state.

One of the Portland exhibition spaces will be Albertina Kerr’s Project Grow gallery at 2156 N. Williams Ave. Project Grow is a program of Albertina Kerr’s Port City, an activity and recreation program that provides career and social support for adults with developmental disabilities from Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties.

The gallery provides a space for artists with developmental disabilities to explore personal expression through various mediums.

“Project Grow aims to create a shared art experience by connecting individuals with artists in the community,” says Carissa Burkett, Albertina Kerr’s program manager.

“We are honored to showcase the art of talented local artists and have our artists’ work on exhibition for the community to see.”

The artists in Portland2016 aren’t necessarily linked by medium, visual style, or career level, but all share an interest in creating work informed by a theoretical and geographical distance from larger commercial art centers.

In an effort to bring new contexts and audiences to contemporary art, the exhibits will occupy spaces statewide such as Ashland’s The Schneider Museum of Art, Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and White Box at the University of Oregon in Portland.

It will include some of the state’s unique historical buildings, including the Rivoli Theatre in Pendleton, the Liberty Theatre in La Grande, and Astoria’s Astor Hotel. Other locations include La Grande, Pendleton, Madras, The Dalles, Corvallis and more.

Here are Portland events:

### **July 9**

Project Grow, 2156 N. Williams Ave., 12-3 p.m.

Cherry & Lucic, 4077 N.E. Seventh Ave, 1-5 p.m.

c3:initiative, 7326 N. Chicago Ave, 2-6 p.m.

Disjecta, 8371 N. Interstate Ave, 6-10 p.m.

### **July 10**

Muscle Beach, 3104 S.E. 51st Ave, 3-5 p.m.

White Box at the University of Oregon in Portland, 24 N.W. First Ave, 5-7 p.m.

### **July 14**

Cooley Gallery Case Works Program, Reed College Library, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd, 3-5 p.m.

### **July 30**

Cherry & Lucic presents “Poor Leatherette” by Merlin Carpenter, 4077 N.E. Seventh Ave, 6:30-10 p.m.

### **Aug. 8**

c3:initiative panel on Art + Activism, in partnership with Prequel Artist Incubator, 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 19**

Portland State University Broadway Lobby Gallery, 1620 S.W. Park Ave, 5-7 p.m.

**Sept. 7**

Oregon College of Art and Craft, 8245 S.W. Barnes Road, artist talk, 3:30-4:30 p.m., reception 5-8 p.m.

**Sept. 10**

c3:initiative, Carla Bengtson performance, afternoon

**Sept. 18**

Closing Party, Disjecta, 7 p.m. until late